

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

May 8, 2001

LB 620

information from the Fiscal Office for what it is worth and it is always, to my estimation, offered only for what it is worth and that is that it is numbers. The Fiscal Office has always been subject to examination on how the numbers were arrived at. We have always been satisfied that the numbers have not been arrived at based on the analyst's opinion in...in a...in terms of a political or policy or preference kind of context. It is based on the best information available to them. If they can live with us and the intense political demands that we place on them as we develop a budget or as we develop A bills or as we do all of the other things around here that have to do with money, I think they can stand up to any kind of inquiry and, in fact, I think the potential for inquiry would make them doubly careful to assure themselves and to be able to assure those who ask that the information that they provided was developed in an impartial and neutral fashion. And, again, I will note that in this...in this time frame, this immediate time frame, we have had an example of how that can occur as we were developed...as the Revenue Committee developed its analysis of this bill. I think that Fiscal can and will perform professionally and I think it can stand up and would stand up to an examination of anyone who criticized or attempted to state that the analysts had not behaved or worked in a professional and ethical fashion. It is the very definition of what our Fiscal Office does for us that they work in a professional and ethical and unbiased fashion. I will reiterate that if we do not provide the analysis for the board that is contemplated through the use of our economic models that I see no basis for the board to utilize the factors that are contained in Section 34. They are meaningless in their absolute terms. They are only meaningful in terms of their impact on the state of Nebraska and the only way you can determine that is through the use of economic models. Now, perhaps we should mandate that the board independently contract for or obtain economic models. We could do that, but that would truly cost the state of Nebraska money because these things aren't cheap. As it is, we can provide the information to the board at really no additional...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: ...incremental cost. We currently maintain